

Live on Mars?

An extension of "Why we need to protect life here on Earth"

Space exploration has taken a giant step forward. Now, scientists are looking for another planet where humans can migrate to. Not everyone thinks that is such a good idea. For instance, astronomer Lucianne Walkowicz expressed her view that we should focus on staying here.

"There are many excellent reasons to go to Mars, but for anyone to tell you that Mars will be there to back up humanity is like the captain of the Titanic telling you that the real party is happening later on the lifeboats."

"If we truly believe in our ability to bend the hostile environments of Mars for human habitation, then we should be able to surmount the far easier task of preserving the habitability of the Earth."

She is saying that instead of looking to other planets for a solution, we should take greater care of our beautiful Earth and strive to create more livable spaces here.

How do you feel?
Would you rather live on Mars
or would you prefer to remain on Earth?

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Form five groups of about the same size.
2. Read "**Why we need to protect life here on Earth**" (page 19-20, *What's Up* October 2016). Reflect on the powerful ideas expressed in this speech.
3. Highlight key phrases in the speech and use them to form a poem or rap. Your poem or rap should express your group's views about whether we should work on making planet Earth more livable or look for another planet to migrate to. You may also support both approaches.
4. Recite your poem or perform your rap for the rest of your class. Then, send it to *What's Up* at www.share.whatsup.sg.